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STATE DOCUMENTS

A NEW APPROACH BY A CONCERNED JURIST

MP NEWS

VOLUME XII JUNE 1970 NUMBER TWO

THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. WILSON

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The M.P. NEWS is published monthly by the men of Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge, Montana, with the permission of the Warden, Prison Administration and the Board of Institutions.

The purpose of this publication is to give inmates the opportunity for self expression; to provide a medium for discussion of public problems; to foster better understanding between inmates and the public; and to be constructively informative.

The M.P. NEWS does not, nor is it intended to reflect the view or opinions of the Board of Institutions or the Staff of Montana State Prison.

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PAGE ONE

Editorial

HAS IT ALL BEEN SAID BEFORE?

As you put a penal publication together you are often struck with the thought, "Just what are we trying or hoping to accomplish?" The use of words, either written or spoken, carries responsibility and most of us are not remembered for being too responsible.

Neither the "Pip Squeak" nor myself are, in any sense of the word, journalists. Neither are we paragons of wisdom in the field of social sciences. We have opinions! WHAT'S NEW?? So does everyone else. There have been occasions when our "opinions" have been viewed as hairbrained and incompatible with reality. (We might sulk for days) Then of course comes the "factor, why try to foster our opinions on others?

Most writers for prison publications champion the cause of prison reform, NOW! And invariably we scream that ours are the realistic ideas for progress. What we wish to portray to the reader as a sensible method of reformation, by a totally objective individual, could be looked on as disruptive.

Well, there is a Roll Of Drums for progress in the article on Montana's Work Furlough Plan. But, primarily this issue deals with youth. Over the past months we've talked with many of them. We've splken with the teenage prison inmates; kids in trouble with the authorities, high school and college youngsters on tour of the institution, the eighteen year old emotionally disturbed drug addict, and the bright, well adjusted students.

How much, if anything at all, we have been able to convey to them, there is no guage. However, we would be less than candid if we failed to mention, that without exception, they left us with numerous points to ponder.

Generally speaking convicts are thought to be cold, calculating, unfeeling, concerned only with pursuing their own selfish interests. But I have yet to meet a single prisoner who wouldn't do anything he could----to keep youngsters from making the mistakes that might very well lead to a prison or jail term. Why will convicts show concern for youth, when, at least on the surface, they will show no concern for themselves? The answer is really very simple----No matter what rung of the ladder of accomplishments we may stand no matter how much of a non-conformist a man may appear there is not a one of us who wishes--to abandon all claims to our role in the collective enterprise of society.

But what do you say to youngsters? HAS IT ALL BEEN SAID BEFORE? How can you make a youngster understand what could happen to him---what it's like to wreck your life. When you attempt it your mind vagues up, for how can you explain the feeling of lonliness, frustration or choking emotions? You only know that you had them. HAS IT ALL BEEN SAID BEFORE? Perhaps you know!!!!

MP NEWS

AN OPEN.....
.....LETTER
to YOUTH

Dear Youngster:

Let me begin by asking you. Have you ever been inside a penitentiary. Have your eyes ever rested on those high, guntowered, grim walls where so many human lives are packed to vegetate and decay; awaiting the hand of time to spring the creaking door which will release them.

I wish I had the ability to use words that painted pictures and gave off real odors----to transmit what it is really like here. Because whether you have ever seen a prison or not----you probably have the idea that you know something about them. What it's like to be caged. But let me assure you-----you haven't any conception of what prison is like. The real prison isn't what you see----but what you feel.

Prison is a lonliness that sinks its teeth into your very soul; it's an emptiness that leaves a sick feeling, deep down inside you. Prison is a constant anxiety that pushes and swells----an uncertainty that smothers and stifles within. It's frustation, futility, despair and certainly indifference. Prison surpresses, it deadens and it crushes. Prison is all of this and more----much, much more.

To your surprise, perhaps, there is no glamor or notoriety here. There are no big shots in prison. And there is no devious mystery about prison, it is just the hard, cold, stark facts of a life of confinement. You seldom read about the real prison in your newspapers, magazines or books, nor is it portrayed in reality on your television or movie screens.

In here you see the world through a gray mist. Now and then your mind fights its way upward, and then when the light breaks in it brings only revulsion, and you retire into the grayness again. The routine for merely living, the simple dignity of cleanliness is a chore, a task.

Prison is an empty feeling that gnaws on the mind of those who hope for the letter that never arrives----for the visitor who never seems to make it.

Are you aware that in prison there are no values but that the strong shall survive----that your most trivial affairs become warped and distorted. It's a world that thinks and acts like a jungle beast rather than a productive human being. It's a world filled with degredation and humiliation, where love and kindness are weakness.

And when you enter here----they'll first strip off your clothes, but they'll go deeper, much deeper than that. They'll shuck off any little dignity you have. You'll lose what you think of as your decent right to live and to be let alone to live. You're required to eat and sleep and live---next to other men. And when they dress you up in your prison khaki you'll not be able to tell yourself from the others. And you can't place a pin or note on your breast to say this is me. ME-----ME.

Of late there have been constant accounts of youngsters of high school and college age, who are experimenting with various forms of drugs.

Most of you attempt to justify your actions with the rather inane excuse

that "marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol." But that's like saying that drinking gasoline is no more harmful than drinking kerosene.

What's the truth about the claim that marijuana is non-addicting? Is it or isn't it? The pothead will say, "I8ve been smoking pot for years----I can quit any time!"

Medically speaking marijuana is not addicting. That is, it doesn't form a dependence which ends in withdrawal symptons when the drug is no longer used.

But marijuana devotees, it appears, never discuss the fact that marijuana is mentally and psychologically habit forming.

The marijuana smoker is hooked on escape. They are running from life and all it holds. They don't want to face reality, or whatever responsibilities may be theirs. They turn to pot hoping to be secure in their own little world. Users don't become addicted to marijuana----they become addicted to the idea of a life of ease, pleasures, and lack of responsibilities. Marijuana merely makes this exodus from reality possible.

Don't you think it is rather strange that most of the so called experts who speak and write about the use or sale of drugs, fail to mention one very serious side effect connected with any illegal drug: THE EVER PRESENT THREAT OF GOING TO JAIL OR PRISON. For, regardless of whether or not marijuana, LSD, or pills are harmful to a person's mental or physical health, the fact remains that it is against the law to use, possess, or sell illegal drugs; and all the arguments in the world will not overcome that fact.

There are a lot of you young people who seem anxious to break into prison. You seem to think it is all some kind of a joke to go to jail or prison. There are those of you who seem to regard getting yourself jammed up with the authorities as some sort of a status symbol. Just how stupid can you be????

Now if you get yourself involved----experimenting with drugs----listening to the "wise guys"----then I can sit right here in my cell and write your life's history. For one thing you will spend the rest of your life in and out of jails and prisons.

You will absolutely, positively destroy yourself! And not only that, you will also destroy your family and loved ones.

Of course, I probably don't know anything about all of this, because I have only spent more time in jails and prisons than you have in school. I have only seen hundreds of young kids like you enter these places; laughing, clowning, and treating it all like a big fat joke. But after you have spent two, five, ten, or even 20 years in prison; well you're not a kid anymore; it's not as funny as it seemed in the beginning.

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE DIFFERENT-----YOU'LL NEVER SERVE TIME IN JAIL OR PRISON! Well let me tell you something Buster-----keep unreasonable hours----experiment with drugs----associate with the constant dissenters, the "wise guys", refuse to listen to advice----and I can give you a fourteen carat, goldplated guarantee that you will end up in prison. That is if someone doesn't blow your head off before then.

But whatever you do, don't listen to me. Do as I did and you too can wear your noble badge of stupidity; and shrivel up in the steel intestines of a red brick monster. And each time you lie down on your bunk and look up------you'll see these five words, which seem to be written in fire on the ceiling of your cell-----NOTHING CAN BE WORTH THIS!!!! Care to join me?????

Sincerly,

MP NEWS

YOUTH
AND A CONCERNED JURIST
Robert H. Wilson

FEATURE

It's easy in this year of 1970 to say that a youngster is bad, but does it have any meaning unless you know why? Youngsters in trouble with the authorities cannot pass unregarded because they are living people and they hurt. Robert H. Wilson, District Court Judge, didn't utter these words, but after listening to him talk about youngsters in trouble----this is the impression he leaves you with-----even days after the conversation.

Judge Wilson, a native of Montana, and the father of four children, two boys and two girls, ranging in age from six to sixteen, was appointed to his position on the bench of the 13th Judicial District in October of 1969. A 1953 graduate of the University of Montana Law School, he is presently serving as Juvenile Judge in Yellowstone County. Though his juvenile cases entail only a portion of his judicial assignments, Judge Wilson's method of dealing with youthful offenders, is a new approach, to say the least. He hasn't given up on kids in trouble, far from it.

Judge Wilson, with the approval and cooperation of W.J. Estelle, Jr., Warden of Montana State Prison, and the direct supervision of Deputy Warden J. G. Blodgett, has instituted a plan whereby "certain" youthful law breakers, offenders, who under the law, could be given a prison sentence, are accorded just that. Not in the usual sense of the word however. Because the sentence to prison is for but a single day.

Here's how the plan works: The young offender is brought from the court to the prison, usually by his father. He's dropped off by the parent at the administration building of the prison where he is taken in custody by a picked member of the prison correctional staff. From the administration building he is moved inside the prison proper and processed just as any prisoner would be. "Dummy" paperwork, photographs and fingerprints are completed. He is made to remove his street clothing and then is dressed in prison khaki.

From the admission building he is moved to the main cell block and placed in a cell, alone, and there he remains until meal time. He's required to fall in line for the trip to the

get him to talk about himself-----what he thinks his hang-ups are, his problems. Almost always on the panel, is a young man probably very little, if any older, who has undergone the same frustrations, the same problems. Excuses for behavior aren't accepted---- they are verbally shoved back down his throat, his emotions are drained and wrung out, not once but several times. Then when it is felt he has reached his lowest point at the peak of his anger, frustration, despair-----he's quickly taken to the dress out room, his clothing is returned to him, made to redress and then he is escorted to

mess hall, partake of a meal with the rest of the inmates and then back to the cell house. After the inmate work crews leave for their jobs, the youngster, in the company of an inmate and Mr. William Rola, Counselor from the Social Service Department, is taken into every area of the prison. There is no part of the prison, behind the walls, to which he is not exposed.... this includes the segregation, maximum security and disciplinary areas.

The final two hours of the schedule calls for the youngster to be closeted with a panel of inmates, (Young prison Jaycee members) who literally and verbally, rake him over the coals. They explain to him, with no frills, exactly what prison life is like, what he can expect. And they attempt to

the gate where his parent is waiting for him. Until the moment he steps out the gate to freedom, he's had no idea that he would be leaving that same day.

Chilling? Traumatic? You can bet your life it is. It was designed that way. Though it is much too early to ascertain just how effective this program will be (it was innaugurated three months ago) but it is thought the program has great possibilities. Crammed into a seven hour period is an experience not soon to be forgotten. The youth is kept off balance throughout the entire day, not for an instant is he allowed to adjust, to collect himself. In no manner is he physically mistreated but never is any friendliness, or any kindness displayed.

There is no social conversation, it's all grim and ego shattering.

Judge Wilson has no illusions that his plan is some magic potion-----a cure-all, and he points out that you cannot indiscriminately send every young offender to Deer Lodge. He feels there are only certain youngsters who will benefit from the "shock" therapy of a day in prison. And this is determined only after a very careful study of all the factors involved.

It's Judge Wilson's strong opinion that the problems confronting the youth of today are no more insurmountable no greater than those faced by young people twenty years ago. The main difference being, that youngsters, today are much more aware of their problems, more concerned about them and this concern and awareness is a problem within itself. He speaks of youngsters being more advanced intellectually today than previous generations, but cautious. "They often don't have the emotional maturity to go with this knowledge." He maintains that young people are more independent today, more aggressive, that they are anxious to "cut the apron strings" a lot earlier than in the past.

When asked about the dissent and rebellion of the young people of today Judge Wilson had this to say, "This generation of young people have been raised under different rules than we were, certainly more permissive rules. The "firm" line method of rearing children went by the board a number of years ago. Today's children have been used to more freedom, from the time they were born, practically. As a result they have a lot more opportunity to develop in certain areas, socially, intellectually and otherwise. They have been accustomed, since a very early age, to question their parents. Asking why? Not just following directions, but asking why, and they expect answers. Now they have reached high school and college age and they have found each other----and by grouping together they have found strength.

In discussing the role that parents play today; Judge Wilson is convinced that parents are every bit as concerned about their children as any previous generation of parents. But agrees that there are times when parents today are confused because they are confronted with problems which they have no answers for. He believes that parents, in a great number of instances, have to do less talking and more listening. He stresses that kids have to feel that their thoughts, ideas and problems are worthy of consideration. (Kids are looking everywhere for understanding but seldom, outside their own groups, do they find anything but critics.) Youngsters today are receptive to advice but seldom are you going to know they are receptive. Children don't accept advice because you are older or because you are in a position of authority. Advice has got to make some sense and they have to see the logic and reasoning behind it.

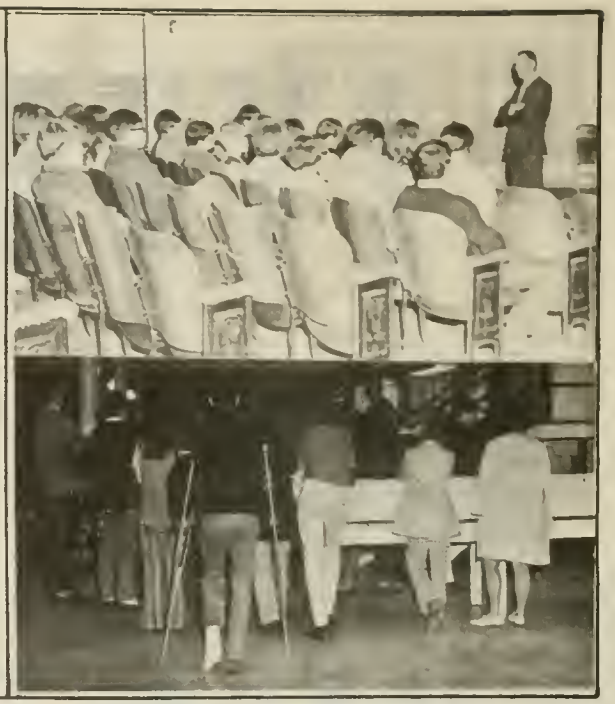
As to specific problems confronting youngsters today, Judge Wilson feels that in the past it was usually the youngster who had been deprived economically, or socially, who ended up in juvenile courts. But this sin't true any longer, youngsters with problems cover the entire economic structure. From a jurist's standpoint, the youngsters who cause him the most anguish are those youths, who obviously have emotional problems, and as he says, "This is where, almost invariably, drugs come in----where they become such a problem. Because a youngster already having difficulty handling problems, is usually the first to turn to drugs, and then of course, the drugs compound the problems.

Judge Wilson is philosophical about his "shock" therapy program for young offenders. It would seem that he is sensitive and understanding of the inner distress of the young and he has a great deal of faith in them. He's not about to stand by and watch young salvageable human lives wasted. His program for young offenders is one of "shock" and education, a plan he hopes may help to reorient young offenders.

Judge Wilson's plan may not revolutionize juvenile corrections, but it's darn sure a step in the right direction.

MP NEWS

!YOUTH!
DON'T SELL THEM SHORT

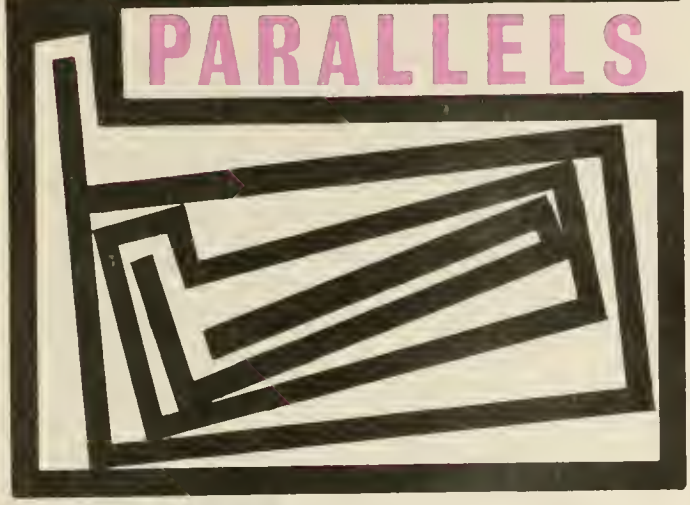


THEY SEE IT

....LIKE IT IS

"You can't talk down to Kids .....and have them listen"

PARABLES IN PARALLELS



An impressive title...well, it simply means short stories with a moral and one like another! Take the campus disorders and the student revolts. Man ...you'd have a dim view of the type of kids in our colleges...if you took what you read strictly as you read it! The fact of the matter is that those students you read about make up a small minority of our college kids, something like 10% (according to some facts I saw somewhere). The various news media, not explaining this, make it appear that every kid in college is a rebel against their own country, a country which enables them to get the education they are getting...no matter who they are! Ever stop to consider the college kids of today will be the leaders of tomorrow? Well they will be! Doesn't it make you wonder sometimes that maybe the news media purposely are creating the impression they are? I mean, after all, they could tell it like it is...if they choose to do so. Nowadays, all a kid has to do is stage a "take over" somewhere and he'll receive nationwide publicity. Now surely there must be more items of interest to report than things along those lines.

It just could be that if they didn't receive the publicity (which they need to create new branches like the S.D.S.) they just might try to become someone of importance by some other method...like studying!

How about that S.D.S.? Did you know, and I'm sure you did, that it stands for Students for a Democratic Society! Now that sure enough is misleading. You know they just recently had a national convention in Chicago.. and guess what?...the Students for a Democratic Society would not allow members of the press to attend! From all I heard and read it was due to the fact that they feared the reporters would report what they heard (which, if the past is any indication was surely a gross misconception), and that in turn would result in federal indictments against members of the S.D.S., for, of all things, conspiring to overthrow the government of the United States of America! Why in the hell don't they call themselves what they are...really are! I mean, after all, they've passed a bill, or law, and no one can be arrested for simply being a communist...or is it too early to pull the covers off!

Wouldn't we be in big trouble if we believed that all our young kids of today were like those that receive all the publicity?

Maybe some of the kids out There ought to form a new organization. Something like the "American Students for Equal Time". How about the issues of the day, say the Viet Nam war. Who gets their views on the nationwide television and in every newspaper in the country? The so called peace seekers, the draft card burners, etc. Why not some of the kids back from Viet Nam. Maybe they claim they realize why they were there, and that, of course, wouldn't be the type of current copy the news media have been putting out, so we have to be content to watch and read about the sign toters, etc.

Actually, they are really fortunate, for can you remember what happened to the people of Hungary for protesting, or what would happen to the people of East Berlin if they decided to go visit a mother, father, brother or sister a few miles away in West Berlin?

You want to know what it's all about...well, that's it baby: the kids in Viet Nam, the kids that were in Korea. They are there and were there to preserve your right to carry those signs and march in the streets. That is why the people in our capitol had

and have them there, and that's why they'll send them anywhere, if freedom's in the balance. Frankly, I doubt if the draft card burners, the Doves, etc. would be any great asset to the fight for freedom anyway.

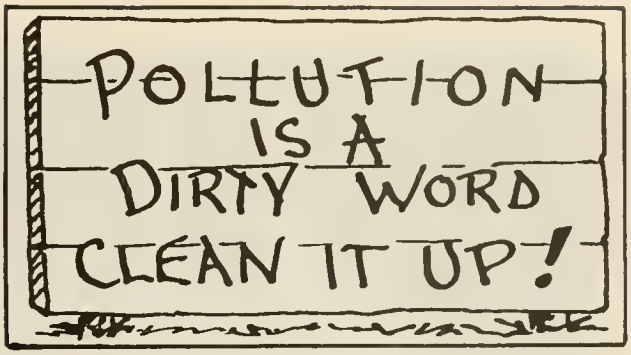
What can be done about it? Who knows? But a suggestion might be that the parents of those few make their kids bathe, shave and change clothes once in awhile. That might do the trick. And to all you kids who happen to make up the vast majority of American Youth...just keep being as you are ...you don't have to be unwashed, unshaven and bare footed to be with it (if they'd been around a few years ago they would have been called bums). You're the greatest just like you are, and regardless of what we read, we know you're out there. And to anyone out there who may read this...Man, when even men in prison (guys that can't even vote) can read between the lines and become concerned...don't you think it's about time you had some thoughts on the matter too. In here when we speak of the outside we call it the "free world"...sure would like to see it remain so.

"Things Must Be Quiet On The Outside"

THE—CREED

First you grow a shaggy beard
And let your hair grow long
Find yourself some "Hippy clothes
And learn some protest songs
Get yourself a daily paper
And in the news I'm sure you'll read
Where schools across the nation
Are teeming with your breed
Join in all the marches
Wave your slogan banners high
Fight for all the "Way Out" causes
And always be ready to testify
Be an advocate of free loving
And don't ever take a bath
Don't bother to look behind you
At the rubble of your aftermath
Disrupt the structures of learning
And be sure to create dissent
Insist you're smarter than the teachers
Make your four letter words evident
Don't be afraid to take part in violence
And always make havoc prevail
Taunt and throw rocks at policemen
Then sing while you're riding to jail
When you call on your friends and fathers
To come down and help bail you out
Don't let it show they're only a tool
To help a cool cat keep cool
Always take part in the sit-ins
It would be foolish to sit through a class
Remember you hire and fire the Professors
You're really part of the Great Mass
Don't let 'em tell you your cause isn't right
Stand up and proudly protest
Let all your vain glorious thoughts be heard
And oh yes! Don't forget the Four Letter Words
The Four Letter Words of the Hippies
Are words a good protester can't shirk
And there's a few more you could start using
Like...PRAY...BATH and above all...WORK!

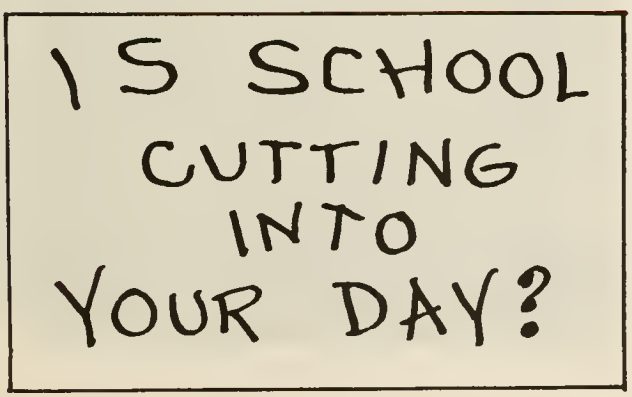
From the Stateville TIME



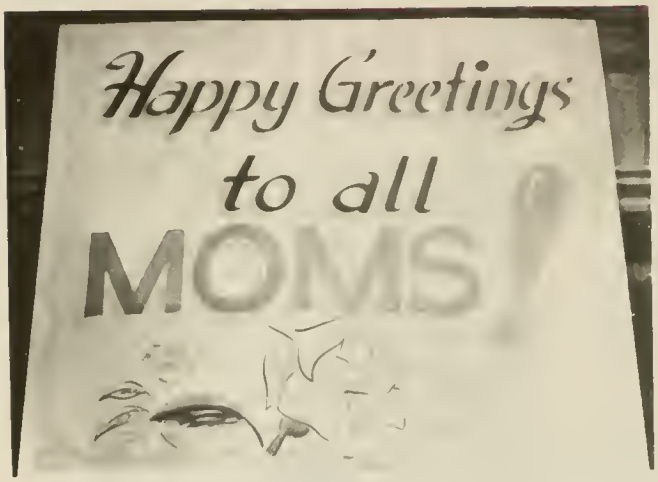
DELINQUENT?

We read in the papers, we
hear on the air,
of killing and stealing,
and crimes everywhere.
We sigh and we say, as we
notice the trend,
"This young generation---
where will it end?"
But can we be sure that it's
their fault alone?
That maybe part of the
blame isn't our own?
Too much money to spend;
too much idle time;
Too many movies of passion
and crime.
Too many books not fit to
be read;
Too much evil in what they
hear said.
Too many children encouraged
to roam;
Too many parents who won't
stay home.
Kids don't make movies;
they don't write those books;
They don't paint gay pictures
of gangsters and crooks.
They don't make the liquor;
they don't run the bars;
They don't make the laws,
and they don't buy the cars.
They don't make the drugs
that addle the brain.
That's all done by older
folks, greedy for gain.
So how many times will we
find that it's true,
The label "delinquent" fits
some older folks too!

From the EYEOPENER



MOTHERS' DAY



As part of the progressive attitude towards change here at M.S.P., Mothers' Day, May 10th was observed by inmates and their Mothers at a breakfast and Church Service within the walls.

A continuous setting of precedent has become apparent...and this program in particular...has been met with undeniable acceptance.

At the suggestion of Warden Estelle and under the sponsorship of Chaplain Skibsrud, M.S.P. inmates were allowed to invite their Mothers inside the walls and join them for breakfast in the Officers' dining room and a special Mothers' Day religious observance in Clark Theater. Corsages for each Mother were supplied by the local chapters of Brotherhood and Yokefellows.

After Church Services, inmates and mothers were allowed to visit during the afternoon...the highlight of the event being...the dropping of all barriers, such as those that normally separate visitors from the inmates. The atmosphere was relaxed, homey (by comparison with the usual visiting procedures) and without a doubt a huge success.

Though the number of mothers able to make the journey for this special affair were few, it is hoped that this program will initiate a standard procedure for like events in the future.

A vote of thanks are extended to all those making Mothers' Day 1970 a success that it was...Food Service for providing an excellent breakfast, the combined efforts of Brotherhood and Yokefellows in providing corsages for each Mother, to Chaplain Skibsrud for his energies expended in correlating the days proceedings and a memorable Mothers' Day church service.

To Warden Estelle, the Administration and those members of the staff who assured this Mothers' Day "happening" with deft and smooth handling in all departments...from each and every Mother and son...THANK YOU!

MP NEWS

MONTANA'S
Work Furlough Program

Undoubtedly one of the most progressive acts ever, dealing with incarcerated felons, was passed by the 1969 Montana State Legislature; approved by Governor Anderson and became law on the first day of July 1969.

House Bill No.72, Chapter No. 288, Montana Sessions laws of 1969 is an act authorizing the establishment and implementation of a prisoner furlough program, under the direction of the Warden of Montana State Prison and with the advice and consent of the Montana Board of Pardons for selected prisoners serving sentences within the state prison.

The Bill is designed to establish a program for the rehabilitation, education and betterment of selected prisoners; to increase the responsibility of the prisoners to society; to make it possible that selected prisoners might, while serving their sentence, work gainfully to support their dependents in whole or in part; continue their education or training; and at the same time fulfill the obligations of the sentence of imprisonment imposed.

Since the Bill became law in July of last year approximately fifty men have submitted applications to participate in this program. After careful screening by the prison administration, the Board of Pardons; and clearance and acceptance by the Sheriff of the County in which the inmate has found employment----Two men have been placed on the work furlough program.

After only eleven months it is too early to start drawing conclusions as to the lack of implementation of this correctional tool, but certainly its merits should be given careful consideration for important reasons.

Whereas the costs amount to almost $7,000.00 per year to keep a man confined at Montana State Prison; the work furlough plan is self supporting.

The work furlough plan requires a prisoner employed in the community to surrender to the sheriff his total earnings less payroll deductions required by law.

The sheriff shall then deduct from such earnings in the following order of priority: A standard charge for all prisoners determined by the county commissioners to be the cost to the county of providing food, lodging and clothing for such prisoner; the actual and necessary travel and other expenses of such prisoner under furlough from actual confinement under the program. Such amount as the prisoner may be determined by the district judge to pay for the support of his dependents, which amount shall be paid to such dependents. A minimal allowance for personal items. Any balance remaining shall be deposited in an interest bearing account and held in trust until such time as the prisoner is released.

I have listened to recogonized penologists, and read numerous theories and reports,on many rehabilitation programs, but have yet to see one that is keeping men on the street. Ideas and philosophies on rehabilitation are a dime a dozen. (A six cent stamp will get you three dozen from the Senate Judiciary Committee.) But in my opinion the Montana Work Furlough Plan is a realistic move to solve a most baffling problem.

After a cyclone has passed through an area, you find uprooted trees left in its path. Those trees are seldom replanted. Usually they are chopped up and put on a wood pile.

Most men in prison are basically rootless. Not only are they rootless, but they tend to uproot others along with themselves. Consequently, there is no real feeling of "home" as most people enjoy it.

Therefore, wouldn't it be reasonable to believe that before any rehabilitation program will be successful, that the inmate will have to be given an opportunity to start some roots in the community where he plans to reside.

Montana's Work Furlough Plan is a firm base to start from. At the present time, a man on work furlough goes to work at a regular job on the street and spends the rest of the time in jail. We do basically the same thing here in prison. Go to work every day and spend the rest of our time in a cell. But we can participate in many group activities if we choose to. Why not also allow the man on work furlough to participate in community activities and projects?

For example: When he is off work, let him help with a little league team, work with scouts, go to Toastmasters, attend night school, or any of the other constructive activities or projects that exist in any community. In other words get him started growing some roots.

Then when a prisoner leaves an institution it will not be like moving from a cell in here, to another on the street. His transition from confinement to freedom will have been under strict supervision. He will have an investment in the community, the beginning of new friendships, as well as well as the start of those new roots.

There are those who believe that the Work Furlough Plan is intended to allow the inmate a chance to save a few bucks before he is released. If all it takes is a few hundred dollars "gate money" to keep a man out of prison, the state would be money ahead to give it to him and forget the Work Furlough Plan.

House Bill No. 72 is an excellent tool to do something constructive in the field of corrections. It's high time that more than token efforts were made to implement this law.

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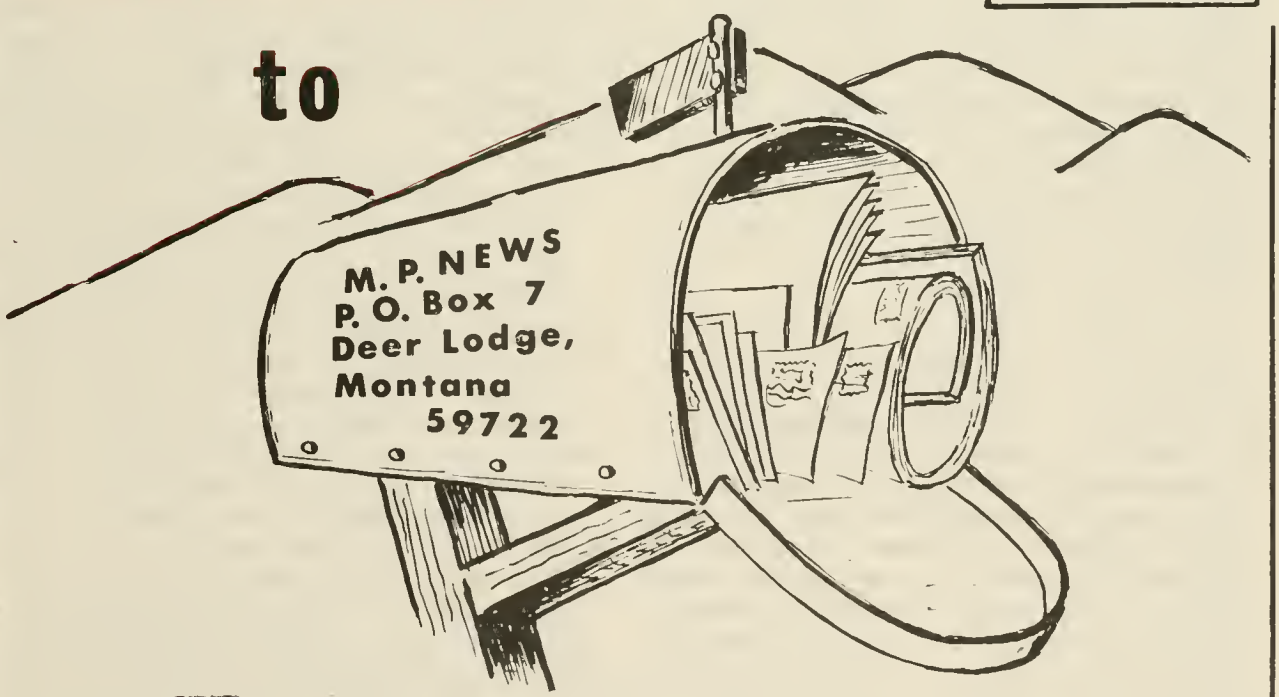
MP NEWS



$2.00 PER YEAR $2.00

How big is BIG?

It is unfortunate that all too often those of us who have violate society's prohibitions, give up. Whether our crime has been committed as a result of pure avarice, or under the circumstances of extreme provocation, we find ourselves grouped together as convicts. Then feeling that we have taken that "third strike" we may feel that we are "out". Out of society, out of competition, out of chances.

Among the repercussions of such an attitude is the rationalization that all successful men had to get where they are by lying, cheating, stealing, "knowing somebody," or having it handed to them on a silver platter. Such an attitude makes it easy to quit. After all, a convict doesn't have a chance.

MALARKEY!! I feel it is time the inmates of our prisons----as well as their "free world" counterparts----recognize the facts about being handicapped, whether as an "ex-con" or in some other way. And it is time we re-evaluated the manner in which we judge the stature of a man. It is time we recognize that stature is not necessarily where a man stands, but rather how far he has climbed.

The problems facing a man upon release from prison are difficult, to say the least. In spite of the popular statement that these men have----- and I hesitate to use the threadbare cliche---"paid their debt to society", such is not, in truth, the case. Obstacles exist which seem designed to segregate us from the mainstream of society. The stigma of being an "ex-con" follows us as if to say, "watch out"! I made a mistake once; naturally I'll do it again!" The same reasoning could dictate that the gal who burns the chili should never be permitted to cook again

Constant reminders of their status makes it difficult for "ex-cons" to create a normal life for themselves. Yet, even under such a handicap, many "ex-cons" manage to go on to achieve at least acceptance if not success. Why? Is such a person merely "finally doing what's right," or has he accomplished something in which he should take pride? Has he become just another average man, or should we grant that he has, in the face of adversity demonstrated an extra amount of determination and courage?

Just how should we judge the stature of a man? I don't mean his physical proportions in inches; I mean his character. How big is he----inside?

Many of us have adopted the custom of judging people by their apparent accomplishments, without taking into consideration the ease or difficulty of such attainment. We confuse status with stature.

Is the stature of a man who takes over an already successful family business the same as the stature of a man who builds a small business through his own initiative and effort? Is the man who hires others to build him a mansion more to be admired than the man who builds himself a small home with his own hands? It might be well if we admired the mansion, but reserved our respect for the builder of the small home. I think the measure of a man should not be his social standing, but what he has been able to accomplish against adversity. However, in our society we have come to honor structures more than their creators.

The true measure of the stature of a man, whether in prison or out, lies in his ability to achieve in the presence of adversity or handicap.

The man who, finding his life in wreckage, his dreams shattered, his hopes broken in pieces, can pick himself up, bandage his wounds, and go on to rebuild; this is a man of stature; this is bigness.

AND THAT'S HOW BIG-----BIG IS!!!!!

MP NEWS

PSYCHO THERAPY COMES TO M.S.P.

In January 1970 the Department of Institutions in cooperation with the Department of Psychology of the University of Montana at Missoula initiated a program of psychological services for inmates at Montana State Prison. The program is under the direction of Dr. John Watkins, Director of the Clinical Psychology Progam at the University. Dr. Watkins is being assisted by two other professors from the Psychology Department, Dr. John Atthowe and Dr. Robert Zimmermann. The program also provides clinical psychology assistantships for graduate students in clinical psychology.

Dr. Atthowe brings specialization in the field of behavior modification to the therapy program whild Dr. Zimmermann has been active in alcoholism therapy and counseling for several years. The students which are chosen to work at MSP are selected on the basis of their interest and special abilities. Since January the assistants have been Bud Fitchler, Tom Halbert, Fred Weldon and Sig Weedman. Bud, Tom and Fred all have had experience in prison work prior to the beginning of the program at MSP. Many of the inmates are familiar with Bud who has worked here for the past several summers and many of the staff are familiar with the reverend from his association with the National Guard.

Tom Halbert was a counselor for the Canadian Corrections program in Alberta for a year and has had special training in group therapy programs with special emphasis on alcoholism. Fred Weldon is a student in the counseling program at the University and has had two years experience at the Federal Correctional Institution at, McNeil Island, Washington. He is at present, the specialist in tests and diagnosis, since Bud Fichtler left for internship, and is responsible for the group therapy sessions at Rothe Hall.

Sig Weedman is a familiar face since he has been the most active member of the therapy team. Sig is here, every friday and saturday and has been the primary force in both individual and group therapy programs inside the walls. Mr. Weedman is best described as a reality oriented therapist.

With the ending of school for the year there will be a change in assistants. Tom will be graduating and Sig will be leaving for Seattle for the summer. They are to be replaced by Barry Quinn and Don Moritz.

The therapy programs are designed to bring the prison as complete a set of psychological services as possible within the limits of the funds available. This includes personal counseling, group and Individual therapy and diagnostic and vocational testing. Dr. Zimmermann and the graduate assistants are also assisting inmates plan careers associated with college and university programs.

To date about 60 men have actively participated in the program. The number varies as men drop out, new ones commence; men leave on discharge or parole. It is a completely voluntary program for the inmate participants and is active at times which minimize interference with other institutional

programs. Individual therapy, testing and counseling are held on Friday on the inside. Two therapy groups are held by Mr. Weldon at Rothe Hall on Friday evenings and three therapy groups are held inside on Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.

The basic purpose of the program is to help those men who want to help themselves to a better adjustment while confined and after they are released. It would be reasonable to assume that a man who could not make a good adjustment to the institutional system would probably have a much greater difficulty making a successful adjustment on the outside. Actually there is no proof that a good adjustment while confined will assure a satisfactory adjustment after release. However in any case it is obviously better for the prisoner and the institution if he is doing "easy time". At this level the man can be assisted in his ability to cope with the trials and tribulations of prison life; it will also aid the individual in accepting his position in a realistic manner. At the same time there is an attempt to help the inmate improve his self-concept... during the time he is here. The last point may need a word or two of explanation.

Bud Fichtler's research here at NSP has confirmed, scientifically, something which has been suspected for a long time. That is, the longer a man stays in prison, the lower his self concept, or self esteem, becomes. Many inmates participated in Bud's experiment. He measured the way you felt about yourself, and the way you would like to be. Psychologists have known for a long time that the greater the difference between the way you think about yourself (adult self concept) and the way you would like to be (Ideal self concept) the more difficulty the person has in adjustment to every day life; the more "neurotic"or "deviant" he would tend to be. Bud's research showed that inmates just entering prison do not differ a great deal from college students on this score. But men who have been in prison for six months or more had a much greater difference between the ideal self and the actual self. Thus one of the purposes of the therapy program is to help the inmate develop a realistic ideal self concept and then to assist him in maintaining an adequate actual self concept.

When a man has a good balance between the ideal and actual self he has a much better chance of dealing with the problems of every day life, both in and out of prison. He is not fighting himself anymore. This aspect is closely tied to the notions of reality therapy which emphasises the importance of the persons taking an objective look at society and himself. In reality therapy the client is assisted in identifying a realistic role in society that he is capable of fullfilling. It is very important for each person to accept a role which he feels capable of coping with, and then striving to fulfill it to the best of his ability. Thus the inmate finds he is capable of chosing a role or slot in society that is meaningful to him and then sets out to meet and fulfill the demands of that role. As you can see, all responsibility is then in the hands of the person. He is responsible for his actions and the situations in which he finds himself. The therapist can assist him in directing his, choice in a realistic manner, but the rest is up to him. The key word of

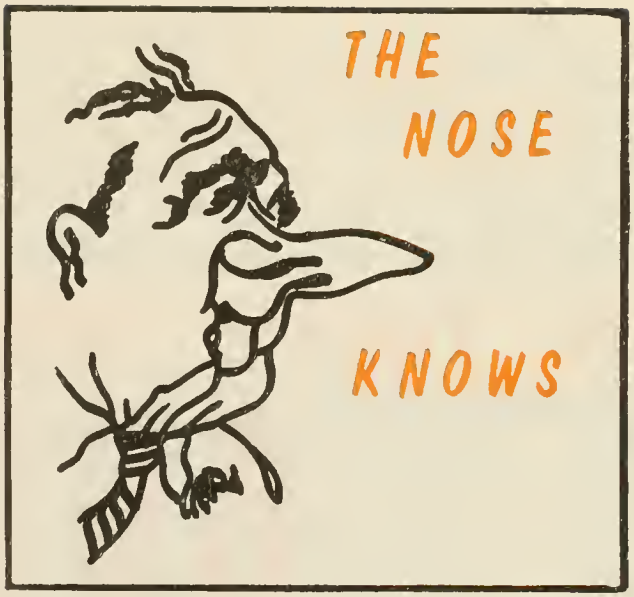
this type of program is responsibility. How many times has the inmate (before entering prison) found himself in a very embarassing position. Most of the time he does not feel responsible. But in the final analysis, he has chosen and is in fact responsible. From the bum check.....written whild drunk, to the drunken fight, and so on. The inmate soon learns where the responsibility lies. WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO ARE OUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

In other cases Dr. Atthowe is assisting Dr. Zimmermann and the graduate assistants in developing behavior modification and control programs for men who have specific "hang-ups" (such as compulsive check writing, explosive tempers) so that they begin to practice self control while they are still here and can carry what they have learned with them when they leave.

In a nutshell, the purpose of the psychology therapy program is to help the inmate right now but to also help him with problems that will have a meaning for him for a long while, whether that time is spent here in prison or on the outside. The slogan for the program might read: TO HELP HIM HERE, TO HELP HIM OUT, TO HELP HIM STAY OUT.

MP NEWS

IT'S OK TO BE BORN AN IDIOT IF YOU DON'T KEEP LOSING GROUND



DEAR NOSE: I have heard a lot of talk in here about being a loser. What is a loser?

SIGNED I AM ONE

DEAR AM ONE: A loser is the man that goes to the parole board and comes out with permission to get his cell painted.

DEAR NOSE: How can I consult a mail order psychiatrist?

SIGNED NEED HELP

DEAR NEED HELP: Tear off the top of your head and send it in. Don't forget the self addressed envelope.

DEAR NOSE: I heard an advertisement on the radio for Tiger's milk. How do you milk a Tiger?

SIGNED STUPID

DEAR STUPID: With warm hands and very ...very carefully.

DEAR NOSE: I have two girls who want me, one's to get married and one wants to talk me out of it and I love the one who does not want to get married. What should I do about that?

SIGNED BIG D

DEAR BIG D: First you better brush up on your English.

DEAR NOSE: Do girls like men who make love or the other kind?

SIGNED SAM

DEAR SAM: What other kind?

From the WEEKLY SCENE

The following, a valedictory address, given by Mr. Joseph N. Sorrentino at the Commencement Exercises of Harvard University On June 15, 1967 is, we felt, well worth reprinting.

Mr. Sorrentino's comments were originally carried in a Cambridge Massachusetts newspaper and later published in several magazines.

For a lot of US, in prison, repeated failure is a commodity too easily taken for granted----that's why we decided to put a title on the article and call it:

IT TAKES SOMETHING CALLED GUTS!

In this epoch of history man has enthroned science. Science charts the course of the universe. It logs the voyages of light beams from distant stars. It predicts the arrival of comets and the moon's eclipse. It launches satellites into space, plots their path, foretells their fall. And now the instruments of science are turned on the destinies of men, in attempts to measure an individual's promise for achievement in the future.

Psychologists at Berkeley report a series of tests to predict success or failure in a given career. Sociologists have constructed a test to predict success or failure in a marriage. Crimnologists talk of tests to predict delinquency. Life magazine recently pictured a new assembly of tests to help predict what traits in an infant will lead to his later personality. One shows a set of blinking lights flashed before a child while a television camera monitors his every reaction.

The direction of these thrusts is in view. The potential of an individual's life is being subject to searching measurement.

Admittedly such knowledge will give guidance in career planning, prevent tragic marriages and delinquency, uplift the gifted but underprivileged child, but will it not also rob many of the young of their dreams? I believe that the most scientific and penetrating techniques of measurement will measure the human spirit, but that this spirit will remain the individual's inscrutable last refuge of defiance, where he will always have the freedom to achieve his dreams despite grim verdicts and stark limitations.

When I was in my first year I failed out of Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn. Not long after I entered in Bay Ridge High School in Brooklyn. I failed there also. I tried a third time at Bay Ridge, but could not last out the term. Then I entered Washington Irving at night,and again could not finish.

During this period I was also out in the business world, and achieved a record of distinction for failing which even surpassed my scholastic career. I started in a bleach factory at 14. On the first day, trying to impress my employer, I attempted to carry ten gallons of bleach to a truck we were loading. We lost all ten. At 16 I worked in a sweater factory where I had the embarrassing experience of being awakened from a nap by the president of the company. After that incident I became a longshoreman. My next opportunity came through a furniture company's ad in the New York Times which read: "Want ambitious young man who seeks responsibility." After a month of aligning the wheels of tea carts I got tired of responsibility. Then I became associated with a Wall Street Firm in its messenger department, a shoe factory followed. Here I was so low in the company, that

even the office girls wanted me to address them by their last names. Discontent, I moved on to a printing plant, warehouse, cement crew, a Rockefeller Center mailroom, the Erie Railroad, the Washington Market. I even had an exposure to glamor, becoming an office boy at 20th Century Fox. One of my duties was to send complimentary tickets for premier performances to New York's dignitaries. I would like to apologize to former Mayor Wagner whose ticket I gave to my grandmother, and to the other celebrities whose tickets went to the poor.

This was also a period of wildness. I was a leader of a street gang in a tough neighborhhod. At 18 I came across the first of two enlistments in the U.S. Marines. The first time I could not endure the severe authority and rebelled: fighting with recruits, rioting in the messhall, trying to run away through the muddy swamps of Parris Island. Within a short time I was released with a General Discharge.

Having done well before in the Golden Gloves, when I returned from the Marines I resumed boxing, preparing for a professional career, but after a year gave it up because a part of me would not accept it.

At 20 years old, realizing that my only chance for a better life was through an education, I went back to high school at night for a 5th time. I finished 3 years at Erasmus while working days hoisting steel. My grades were good enough to be admitted to the **University of California** despite inferior college boards. At the University I was elected a student body president and graduated Magna Cum Laude. After graduation I re-enlisted in the Marines. This time I became a platoon leader, highest scorer in athletic competition and changed my General to an Honorable Discharge. And now after three years at its law school I have the honor of being valedictory speaker at Harvard University.

Do not look for love, tragedy or trauma to explain this change; it was simply a resolution from within.

I come here today not just to tell my story, but to emphasize that in America such things are possible.

In giving opportunity to the individual our tradition has been generous, and from this liberality we have prospered and have become a pattern to others. Let us go forward and now complete the task which remains in this land. A nation which denies opportunity to a part of its people diminishes its own strength in part, and a democracy which cannot carry out its own ideals cannot compete to be the ideal of others.

As for testing and the individual, low estimates will not dim the flame of high aspiration. For in the heart of every young person there is spiritual promise.

On this day I am a graduate of a great University, but it has been a long journey to this honor, and not what social scientists would have predicted eleven years ago.

****

PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF!

Juvenile delinquents are easy to identify once they have gone astray, but spotting and helping potential offenders is a poignant problem for parents and police alike. A New York specialist in psychomatic medicine, Dr. Arnold Hutschnecker, has now come up with a startling plan for preventing delinquency. It involves nothing less than the mass psychological testing of every American child between the ages of six and eight in order to weed out future criminals.

Dr. Hutschnecker's Orwellian proposal has stirred strong criticism from many experts who argue that there is simply no scientific way to test a futre criminal with any degree of accuracy. Said Caleb Foote, a University of California law professor and criminologist: "The idea of predicting future criminals carecrs by testing six-year-old children is unworkable, discriminatory and unjust to the thousands who would erroneously be labeled precriminal." Last year Dr. Hutschnecker called for a "kind of mental-health certificate" that would be required for young people applying "for any job of political responsibility." His idea of sanity credentials left unresolved Juvenal's question about who would guard the guardians, but it raised an intriguing possibility: Why not make the anti-lunacy license mandatory for psychiatrists as well?

CALLS FROM PRISON WALLS

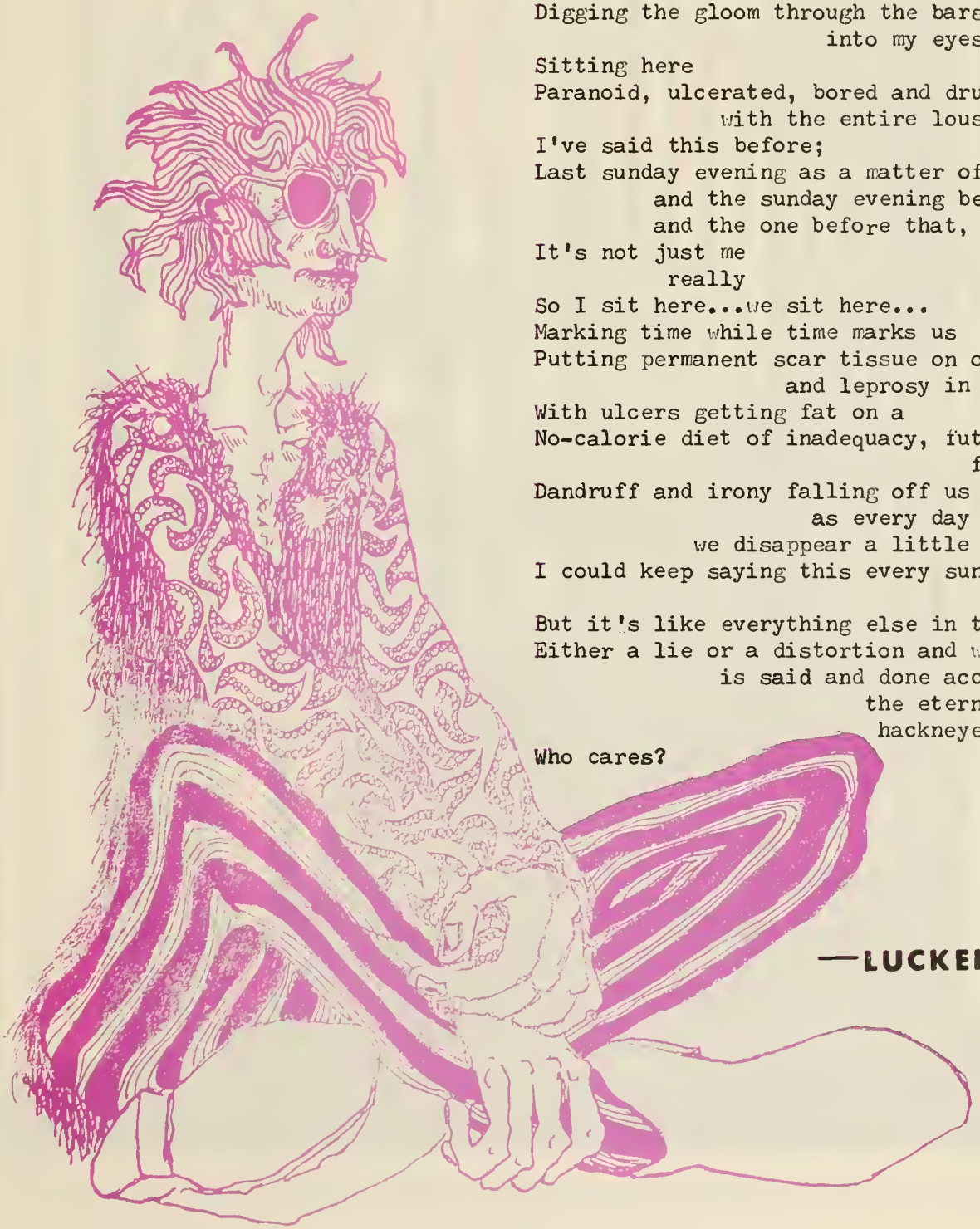
Beauty was present tonight,
It all seemed so right.
Within those walls
Where did she come
Can beauty be present here?

Look at those walls, gates, the fence
Where lies the sense?
To keep us out and people in?
To hide that no one cares?

Open the fence and let us in,
Open the world and make us care,
Let humanness exist.
Teach us to love and learn and know;
To understand, let beauty flow!
To find in there, a HUMAN need
To find out there, a HUMAN care,
To tell the world
To go unhurled,
To have no need to fear.

When we see a need fulfilled,
A love that does exist,
When people care, relate, and learn
These gates may open wide.

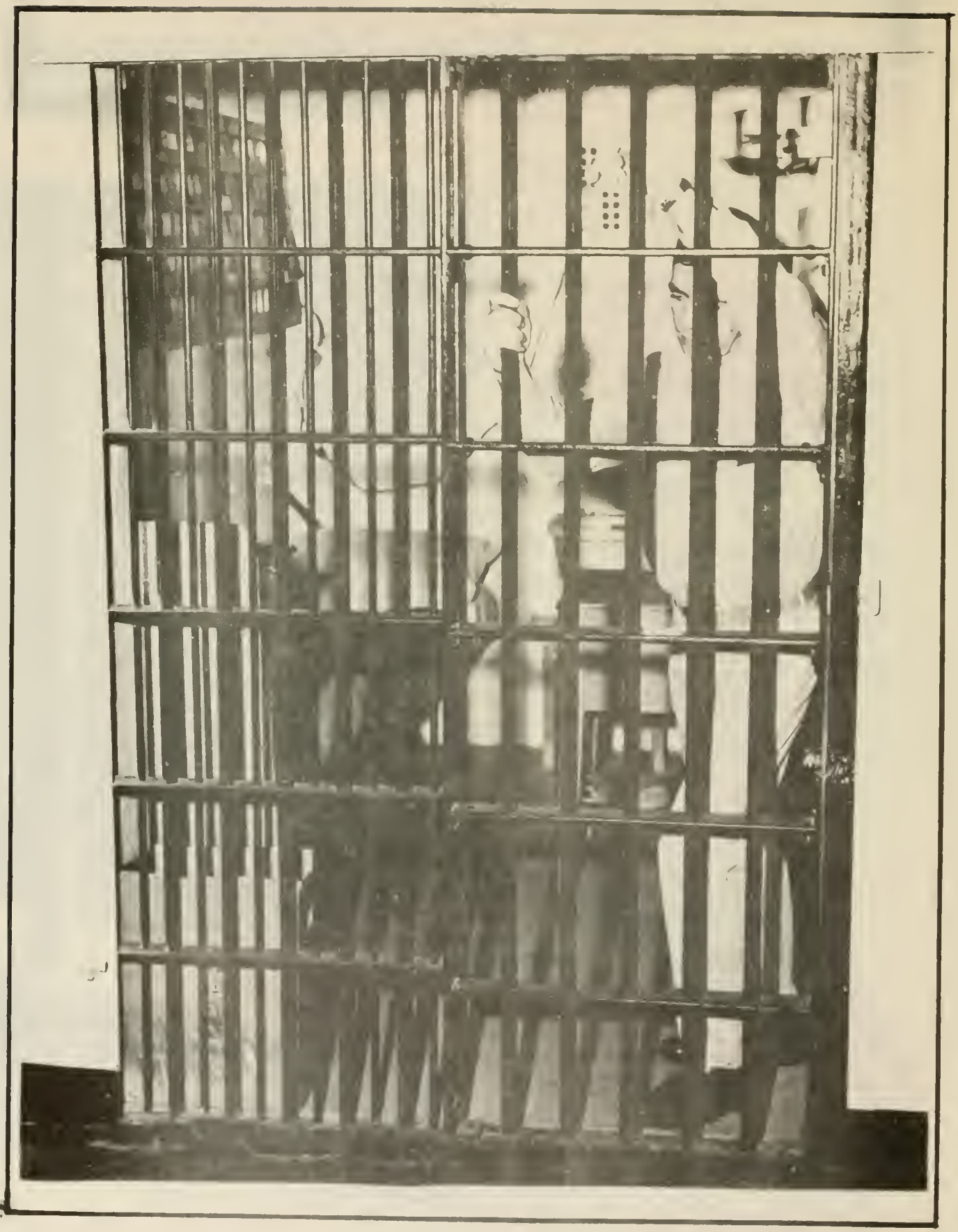
SUNDAY EVENING SOLILOQUY



Sitting here sunday evening depressedly
Digging the gloom through the bars tattooed
into my eyes by time.
Sitting here
Paranoid, ulcerated, bored and drugged
with the entire lousy hassle!
I've said this before;
Last sunday evening as a matter of fact
and the sunday evening before that
and the one before that, and.....
It's not just me
really
So I sit here...we sit here...
Marking time while time marks us
Putting permanent scar tissue on our brains
and leprosy in our souls
With ulcers getting fat on a
No-calorie diet of inadequacy, futility and
forlorness
Dandruff and irony falling off us
as every day
we disappear a little bit more.
I could keep saying this every sunday
evening
But it's like everything else in the world-
Either a lie or a distortion and when all
is said and done according to
the eternal trite,
hackneyed script,

Who cares?

—LUCKENBACK



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FROM OUR PAST

THERE ARE MEN PRESENTLY AWAITING RELEASE ON PAROLE WHO ARE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. STEADY EMPLOYMENT IS A REQUISITE OF PAROLE AND THESE MEN CANNOT BE RELEASED UNTIL THEY HAVE SECURED AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OR EMPLOYMENT.

WON'T YOU CONSIDER HELPING THESE INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO....REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND TO BECOME USEFUL, PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY?

For further information write: EMPLOYMENT, P.O. Box 7, Deer Lodge, Mont. 59722

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make him

A TAXPAYER

NOT

A TAXBURDEN

MONTANA'S Women Prisoners

Almost five months ago the four women prisoners at the State Prison in Deer Lodge, were transferred to the Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs ...The move was brought about for several reasons. Economy...the exhorbitant expense of providing separate, but adequate facilities for such a small number of female prisoners; the lack of sufficient diversity in work assignments; plus the almost complete absence of any recreation.

You find, as you listen to Sam Campanella, staff psychologist at the State Hospital, the coordinator and director of the women's program, that the transition from one of close supervision at the prison to one of liberal movement at the hospital, was more than a little difficult for all the female prisoners. It has smoothed out a great deal now, the women feel a little more secure, more sure of themselves. Too the hospital patients and staff has come to accept them, and are no longer apprehensive in their company.

According to Mr. Campanella, the women are industrious on thier job assignments and fill them effectively. They work as nurses aides, in the diet kitchen and one girl was assigned to work in surgery.

They are all active in self improvement programs, academic classes, (one girl recently took her G.E.D. exams) psychotherapy and home economics classes. They participate in many of the social activities of the hospital and have the same privileges and freedom that any of the patients on an open ward might have with one exception, they are not permitted to leave the grounds of the hospital.

Not all of Montana's female prisoners are sent to Warm Springs. After careful screening, if for any reason it is felt that a female prisoner would not adapt to the program at the hospital she is sent to the Women's Reformatory in York, Nebraska.

Sam Campanella in appearance reminds you of a college freshman and you keep glancing about on his desk for his beanie. It is only when he begins to express himself and his ideas of, dealing with the incarcerated that you realize that this young man is definitely dry behind the ears. You're impressed with his quiet manner and his sense of humor.....and his candid answers to questions. Because he seems so easy going and unflappable, you're curious if he might not be a pushover for a sob story. So you ask him about this...and very quickly and emphatically he tells you, "I'm easy going but I can't be pushed. Right now I've got a girl on permanent restriction, on a locked ward, and there she will remain until such time as I am convinced that her attitude has changed."

It's likely that because of his involvement with the program he's a man of many hats. He has to act as a sounding board, father confessor, disciplinarian, and motivator. He admits to it being a challenge.

His door is always open to anyone who wants to come in and talk and his basic philosophy in dealing with these female prisoners would seem to be, "If you are expecting someone to fail.. then they are apt to fail. I don't expect these girls to fail. Here they have become involved with other people and their problems. They have learned to accept these people and their problems and because of this they are beginning to see their problems in a different light."

Objective views, and with objectivity....PROGRESS FOR THE INCARCERATED FEMALE.

SMOKING MARIJUANA MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR FREEDOM

by
Gordie Wilkins

Now that old Sol is beaming bright ...sports activity at M.S.P. has moved outdoors.

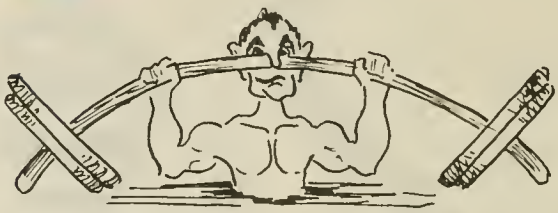
Outdoor athletic endeavors include Volleyball, Horseshoes, Basketball... Softball both slow pitch and fast pitch...and the ever to be found Iron Men of M.S.P.

Since the only sports activity is Softball we'll concentrate our reporting efforts in that specific direction ...with an added feature on weightlifting and the possibility of staging an inter-institution competition in that particular field.

A full schedule for slow pitch softball was inaugurated on May 18th. A triple go-around that features teams from Deer Lodge, Drummond, Garrison, Anaconda, Rothe Hall and M.S.P. Inside ...quite a round of games that will stretch over a 90 day period.

Fast pitch softball is still in the offing but a complete schedule should be firmed up by the first of the month. All in all it promises to be a full summer of softball activity...and institution teams...if early performances are any indication...look to be in the thick of it with a couple of winners.

The Inside M.S.P. team is already sharing the lead in the league with a four win and no loss record.



An organized weightlifting program as such has never been initiated here at M.S.P. Any program has been strictly on an individual basis with two or three working together.

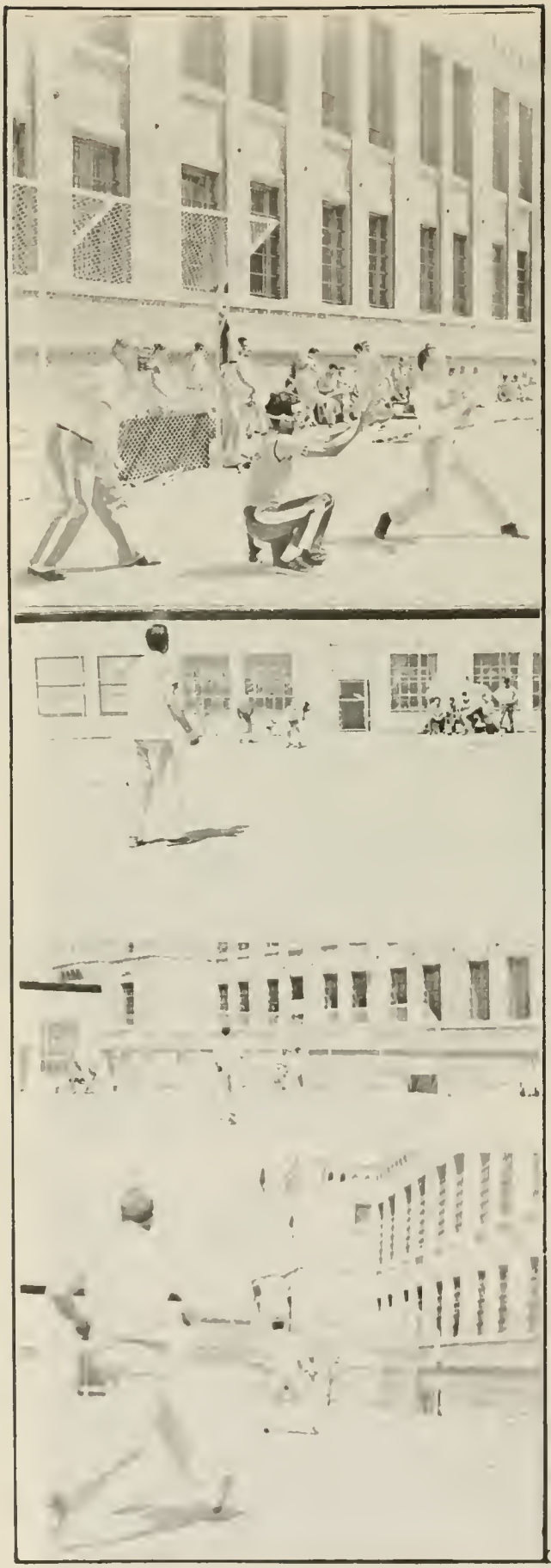
To our knowledge there has never been any competitive lifting between, the institution and outside clubs or between M.S.P. and any other institution.

Since this particular aspect of sports is not dependent on whether conditions and an extensive and extended program of competition could conceivably be innaugurated between institutions via mail for example. It might certainly be worth the effort...especially since a certain amount of interest has been generated here at M.S.P. It also lies within the realm of possibility that interested weightlifting clubs in the area might compete.

For the moment though let's take a look at what's happening at the present day situation in our own wonderful world of sports here at Montana State Prison, in Deer Lodge.

GORDIE WILKINS.....

SOFTBALL



INSIDE SHARES LEAGUE LEAD!!

The INSIDE slow pitch softball nine has come up with four wins against no losses to cop a share of the lead in the first go-around of tourney play.

The Insiders have roared into that first place position with impressive victories...one an astronomical scoring spree that saw their hustle and hitting power score 40 runs against an outside opponent's 5 trips around the bases.

The season is yet young for the seven team league but I.S.P. from the looks of their ability on the ball diamond should come up with a winner all the way to the final wire.

First go-around tourney play will end the middle of June. The triple go around affair will however continue until the 6th of August.

IRON MEN

RE-CAP

The warm season is finally upon us and with all that sunshine, outside sports activity is undersay...with a full schedule of slow pitch softball and a fast pitch league coming up. So far the INSIDE team is setting a torrid pace in softball and shows great promise for the rest of the season.

The Iron Men in the weightlifting crew are steadily building the beef to make a competitive run at some possible outside competition. We'll have more on that along with other sports activities in our next issue...so in the meantime...here's to a great summer sports season.

"Gordie" Wilkins
SPORTS EDITOR

MP NEWS

Hot Air Balloon

MAKE A RESERVATION...

Because of a shortage of prison accomodations in Sweden a number of persons convicted of minor offenses have received polite letters from authorities saying, "We would be grateful if you could wait to serve your sentence until we have room to receive you."

HUM...

Be an optimist...at least until they start moving animals to Cape Kennedy.

BUMPER STICKER...

"If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns."

BRAIN'ASHED...

In America, 94 percent of all homes contain at least one television but only 85 percent have bathtubs. This proves that more brains are washed than bodies.

FOR BETTER OR FOR 'ORSE...

"As characterized by, the top men in the field; the correctional system is fraught with problems of suicide, torture, sexual exploitation, and outright murder. Our hearing record reads like an 18th century horror story."

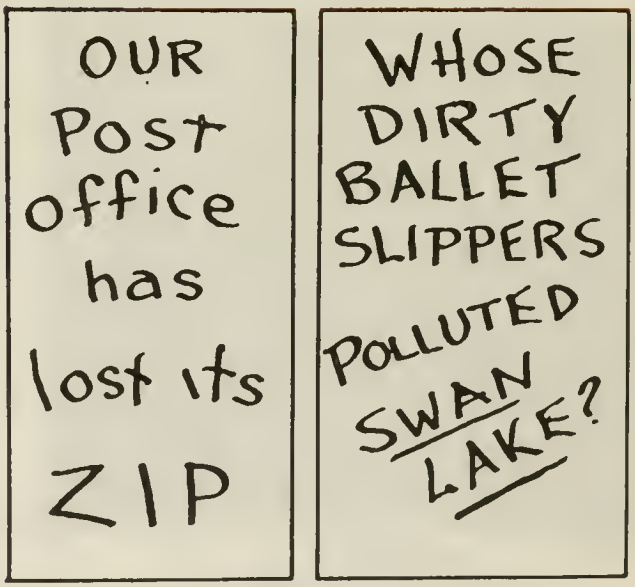
The result is that of the 400,000 persons confined in our prisons today, over 90 percent will be released in a few years in worse shape than when they were committed and with more hostility in their hearts and, more violence in their minds."

SENATOR THOMAS J. DODD

SALVATION ARMY POSTER...

"Help the Salvation Army reclaim fallen men. Call for free pickup."

From the CASTLE COURIER



HELP renew a Citizen

.....hire a PAROLEE

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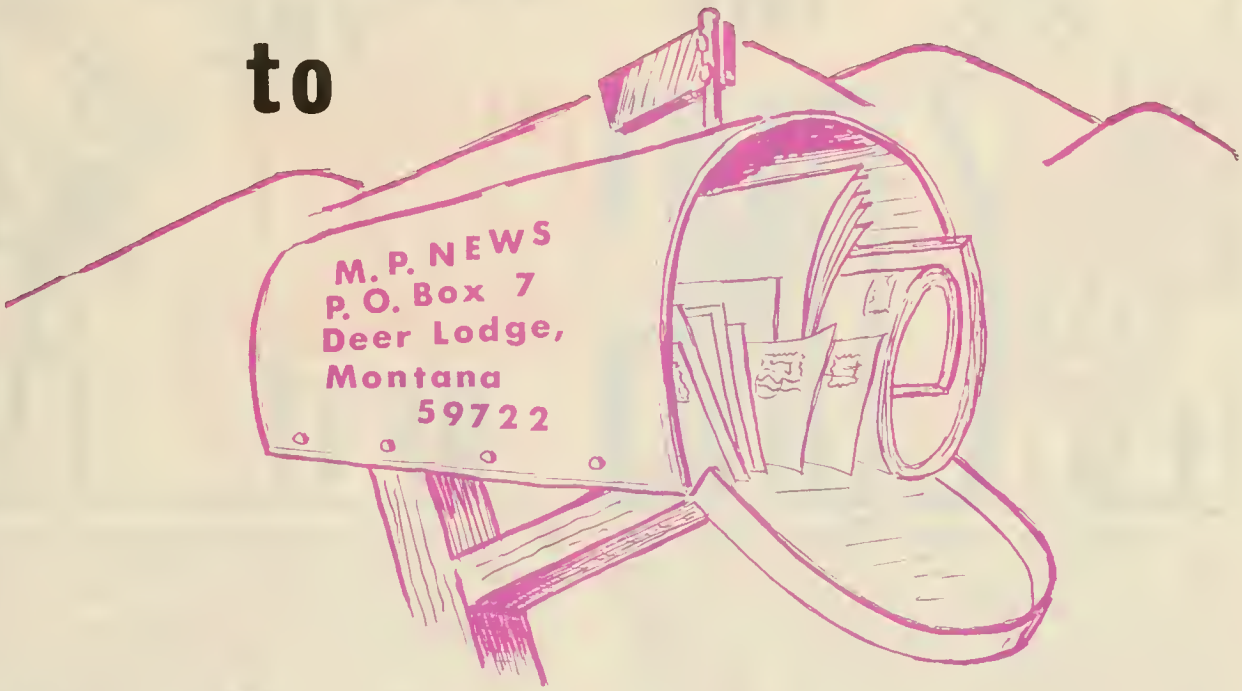

Read.....

THE HOODLUM PRIEST

Prison Medical Research

PRISON ARTIFACTS

Prison Ranch And Automation

In the next issue of MP NEWS

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

Accent on Youth...their attitudes and problems...would seem to be the theme in our June issue of the MP news ...delving into this "now" problem can become a journalistic dream or nightmare, depending of course on the individual point of view. The socio-economic, psychological and philosophical aspects are staggering. Interpreting the views of either generation involved in this controversy of communication becomes even more unfathomable. The most one can hope to do is present basic premises and individual notions, and let the reading public digest, analyze and hopefully understand what's "happening".

Perhaps the key to all of this is, the simple fact of care and concern by interested parties...individual and... collective. In this issue we have cross-sectioned these attitudes by attempting to relate the thoughts of Youth, the care of and by inmates and the genuine concern and "doing something about it" efforts of a deeply involved jurist...even some of the humor is subtlely suggestive of that "care and concern" by so many.

As in any publication and especially a penal publication...the conflict between editorial policy and reportorial procedures tends to shade the idea of overall objectivity. The most dificult task is, quite simply, reporting the facts. "Telling it like it is" quite naturally brings about a double take by many...not necessarily because of any "don't care" attitude or necessity of censorship but rather a fear of possible misrepresentation resulting in the repercussive effects of misunderstanding.

The irony in this thinking can be neatly summed up by a quote from some of the Youth involved..."...you can't talk down to kids and expect them to listen." When queried about what it takes to bridge the "gap"...the reply is realistically simple..."...talk to us...let us talk to you." The problem then would seem to be one of simple communication...abused by one side in its resentment of being talked down to and the uncommunicative attitude by the other side in not recognizing a candid ability by Youth to communicate ...and the fact they do have something to say.

The idea of communicative response or lack of it is of course not new. Reaching people...Youth and an aroused older generation...communicating with some degree of understanding, care, concern...and objectivity is or should be the true goal of this journalistic endeavor...and...everyone, regardless of circumstance or situation...whether they be jurist, a penitential inmate or a youth crying indignantly to be heard above the din of petty bickering of his elders.

In summing up...a suggestion: We all share in this common lack of communication. Youth and their problems are there...talk to them...listen to them...but...DON'T SELL THEM SHORT!

MP NEWS

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